

Preliminary Amendment  
USSN 10/052,305  
June 24, 2004  
Page 3

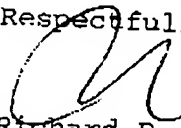
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The introductory portion of the specification has been amended to identify a U.S. patent and a U.S. patent application to which the subject matter of the present application is related. This patent is being brought to the attention of the Examiner, pursuant to MPEP § 2004, paragraph 9. However, the citation of these documents should not be construed as an admission that the disclosures of these patent documents are related to the patentability of the present application. The Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced by this preliminary amendment, and, therefore, the amendment may be properly entered.

Amendment of the subject application is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence  
is being transmitted via facsimile to the  
USPTO at facsimile number  
(703) 872-9306,  
on June 24, 2004 by Suzanne Johnston.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard P. Berg  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 28,145

LADAS & PARRY  
5670 Wilshire Boulevard,  
Suite 2100  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
(323) 934-2300